Amendments to the Claims

In order to expedite prosecution in the present invention, Applicant hereby amends claim 1. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the production of DTPA-bis(anhydride) characterized in that DTPA is reacted with acetic anhydride in pyridine under elevated temperature and that the molar amount of pyridine is equal to or less than 6 times the molar amount of DTPA with the provisio that acetonitrile is not added to the reaction.

2. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the molar amount of pyridine is equal to or less than 3 times the molar amount of DTPA.

3. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the molar amount of pyridine is equal to or less than 1 time the molar amount of DTPA.

4. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the molar amount of pyridine is at least 0.5 times the molar amount of DTPA.

5. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the molar amount of pyridine is approximately the same as the molar amount of DTPA.

6. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is in excess of the molar amount of DTPA.

7. (Previously presented) The process of claim 6 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is more than 7 times the molar amount of DTPA.

8. (Previously presented) The process of claim 6 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is more than 5 times the molar amount of DTPA.

9. (Previously presented) The process of claim 6 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is more than 3 times the molar amount of DTPA.

10. (Previously presented) The process of claim 6 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is more than 2 times the molar amount of DTPA.

11. (Previously presented) The process of claim 6 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is about 3 times the molar amount of DTPA.

12. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is about 3 times the molar amount of DTPA and the amount of pyridine is approximately the same as the molar amount of DTPA.

13. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the reaction temperature is above 65°C.

14. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the reaction temperature is above 70°C.

15. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the reaction temperature is at 80°C or above.

16. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is about 3 times the molar amount of DTPA, the amount of pyridine is approximately the same as the molar amount of DTPA and wherein the reaction temperature is approximately 80°C.

17. (Withdrawn)